



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2018 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RALPH MEJIA,  
LUIS RUVALCABA, and  
LUIS OROZCO,

Defendants.

CR No. 18-

I N D I C T M E N T

[21 U.S.C. § 846: Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)(viii): Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine; 18 U.S.C. § 2(a): Aiding and Abetting]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[21 U.S.C. § 846]

A. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

Beginning on a date unknown, but no later than on or about August 15, 2018, and continuing until on or about September 13, 2018, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendants RALPH MEJIA ("MEJIA"), LUIS RUVALCABA ("RUVALCABA"), and LUIS OROZCO ("OROZCO"), and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, conspired and agreed with each other to knowingly and intentionally distribute and possess with intent to

1 distribute at least 500 grams of a mixture and substance containing a  
2 detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled  
3 substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections  
4 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)(viii).

5 B. MEANS BY WHICH THE OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY WERE TO BE  
6 ACCOMPLISHED

7 The objects of the conspiracy were to be accomplished, in  
8 substance, as follows:

9 1. Defendants MEJIA and RUVALCABA would agree to sell  
10 methamphetamine to drug customers.

11 2. Defendants RUVALCABA and OROZCO would meet with the drug  
12 customers to complete the sale.

13 3. Defendant OROZCO would bring the methamphetamine to the  
14 location of the sale to provide it to defendant RUVALCABA and the  
15 drug customers.

16 4. Defendant MEJIA would contact defendant RUVALCABA for  
17 updates on the methamphetamine sale.

18 C. OVERT ACTS

19 In furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish its objects,  
20 on or about the following dates, defendants MEJIA, RUVALCABA, and  
21 OROZCO, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, committed  
22 various overt acts in Los Angeles County, within the Central District  
23 of California, and elsewhere, including, but not limited to, the  
24 following:

25 Overt Act No. 1: On or about August 15, 2018, in Sioux City,  
26 Iowa, defendant MEJIA, using coded language, told an individual he  
27 believed to be a drug customer, but who was, in fact, a confidential  
28 source who was working at the direction of the Drug Enforcement

1 Administration ("DEA") ("CS-1"), that defendant MEJIA would sell 30  
2 kilograms of methamphetamine to CS-1 for \$3,000 per kilogram.

3 Overt Act No. 2: On or about August 15, 2018, defendant MEJIA  
4 called defendant RUVALCABA to arrange for defendant RUVALCABA to  
5 supply methamphetamine for sale to CS-1.

6 Overt Act No. 3: Between on or about August 23, 2018 and on  
7 or about August 26, 2018, using coded language in telephone  
8 conversations, defendant MEJIA told CS-1 that defendant MEJIA would  
9 meet with CS-1 in Los Angeles, California to sell CS-1 the  
10 methamphetamine, and that the price of the methamphetamine had  
11 increased from \$3,000 to \$3,600 per kilogram.

12 Overt Act No. 4: On or about August 29, 2018, in Los Angeles,  
13 California, defendants MEJIA and RUVALCABA met with CS-1 and another  
14 person defendants MEJIA and RUVALCABA believed was a drug purchaser  
15 working with CS-1, but who was, in fact, also a confidential source  
16 working for the DEA ("CS-2"). At the meeting, using coded language,  
17 defendants MEJIA and RUVALCABA said the methamphetamine they planned  
18 to sell to CS-1 and CS-2 had not yet arrived, and that they would  
19 need to postpone the drug sale by approximately another week.

20 Overt Act No. 5: On or about September 11, 2018, using coded  
21 language in a telephone conversation, defendant RUVALCABA said he  
22 would sell 50 kilograms of methamphetamine to CS-2 in two stages on  
23 September 12, 2018; specifically, defendant RUVALCABA would bring  
24 approximately half of the methamphetamine to CS-2 when defendant  
25 RUVALCABA met with CS-2 at 12:15 p.m. on September 12, 2018, and  
26 defendant RUVALCABA would then provide the other half at  
27 approximately 5:00 p.m. on the same day.  
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1        Overt Act No. 6:        On or about September 12, 2018, using coded  
2 language in a telephone conversation, defendant RUVALCABA told CS-2  
3 that defendant RUVALCABA would sell only 12 kilograms to CS-2 at the  
4 12:15 p.m. meeting, but that defendant RUVALCABA would later supply  
5 additional kilograms of methamphetamine to CS-2.

6        Overt Act No. 7:        On or about September 12, 2018, defendant  
7 OROZCO picked up a blue bag containing approximately 12.3 kilograms  
8 of methamphetamine from 730 Alamitos Avenue, Apartment B, in Long  
9 Beach, California.

10       Overt Act No. 8:        On or about September 12, 2018, using coded  
11 language in a telephone conversation, defendant RUVALCABA and CS-2  
12 agreed to meet in the parking lot of the Lakewood Center Mall, in  
13 Lakewood, California (the "Mall Parking Lot") to complete the  
14 methamphetamine sale.

15       Overt Act No. 9:        On or about September 12, 2018, defendant  
16 RUVALCABA and defendant OROZCO agreed to meet at the Mall Parking  
17 Lot.

18       Overt Act No. 10:       On or about September 12, 2018, defendant  
19 RUVALCABA drove to the Mall Parking Lot to meet with CS-2.

20       Overt Act No. 11:       On or about September 12, 2018, defendant  
21 OROZCO drove to the Mall Parking Lot with the blue bag containing  
22 approximately 12.3 kilograms of methamphetamine in his car to deliver  
23 to defendant RUVALCABA.

24       Overt Act No. 12:       On or about September 12, 2018, defendants  
25 RUVALCABA and OROZCO met with CS-2 and showed CS-2 the blue bag  
26 containing approximately 12.3 kilograms of methamphetamine for CS-2  
27 to purchase.  
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1        Overt Act No. 13:    On or about September 13, 2018, defendant  
2 MEJIA, in telephone calls and text messages, attempted to contact  
3 defendant RUVALCABA for an update on the methamphetamine sale.  
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COUNT TWO

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)(viii); 18 U.S.C. § 2(a)]

On or about September 12, 2018, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendants RALPH MEJIA, LUIS RUVALCABA, and LUIS OROZCO, each aiding and abetting the other, knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute at least 500 grams, that is, approximately 12.3 kilograms, of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

A TRUE BILL

15/  
Foreperson

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